December 29, 2009

Dear Glen,

You wanted the history of my 240 corn planter so thought I would write what I remember. Bought from Lee Jones Imp. by my Mother in summer of 1950. He had it on display at the Mississippi Valley fair. It was delivered to our place after the fair. Since my father passed away when I was 11 years old, I started farming after H.S. graduation 1950. Used the planter first time in spring of 1951. Mother had a hired man before that who used the J.D 999 planter. It was horse drawn, I didn't know anything about horses, and didn't want to learn. Much to my Grandfather Harry Lutts disappointment, we got rid of the horses. I started using the check wire which most farmers did and used it for two years. My rows crosswise were not perfectly straight, but I was able to cultivate it with my also new 221 IH cultivator mounted on our "H" Farmall. Laying out the check wire was my biggest problem, just couldn't understand the operators' manual and that's why the manual is rather greasy on the cover. I gave it to Chad and hope he didn't mind the appearance too much.

Fred Keppy lived on the highway where the Ridgeview store now stands. He was one of the first to spray corn with 2-4D. The spray made the corn lean over some of it almost flat. But about a week later, it straightened up and seemed to have no bad effects. So the third year I stopped using check wire and went to spraying

I set the planter on power check and it was the beginning of spraying. I used the starter attachment with the split boot opener. The first results from fertilizer was the most dramatic. Yield increased from the usual 70-75 bu. to 100-105. The total number of units could not be more than 30. A 4-16-8 was 28, which was OK, any more would hurt germination. Even with a ~~spl~~ split boot applicator, the fertilizer was very close to the seed. A few years later, Dekalb came out with a number XL-45. A ~~short~~ stalk and good standing corn. I call it the first hot corn. It needed to be planted thick. I set my planter to drill and planted it thick as my planter would plant. About 25,000 plants per acre. Yield with that corn would hit 150 bu with only starter fertilizer at 100 lbs per acre. It did not pick clean, however, it had a tight husk. Then Funk G ~~Seed~~ came out with G-75 — another excellent corn picked somewhat cleaner. So then Pioneer came out with 3780. That was a corn pickers' dream. Husk very loose, stand perfect and easy for the 1-row mounted picker to pick. It was very early but yielded as good as later varieties. It picked so clean, I could get 300 bu. more in each side of my crib.

For beans we pushed the marker in to 24 inch. Then we had 2-24 inch rows and 2-38" that helped to yield some, but could still be cultivated by taking one shovel off each side. It was a good planter, it was raised up

or lowered by pulling the rope tied to the tractor seat. The same method as the two bottom plow. I had it on display on my yard for about 10 yrs. There was really no good place to put the markers, they just set on top and I couldn't get the pin out to remove them, so I sawed them off. I'm sorry I did that now, but I thought the planter would look better without them.

Do you remember when Les Jones was downtown on first street. I don't know when he built the place out on Brady. That was always a meeting place for farmers when they were downtown shopping. All the good stores were there then.

Well Glen, that's about it, I'd be happy to answer any questions. I presently have a cold so you better wash yours hands after reading this. I do have a small pamplet on the fertilizer applicator which I didn't get to Chad. You can have if you want it.

Eldon

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Glen purchased Planter
2008 (Summer) For
$200 From Eldon
Had 2 Rolls Wire From
DAD (Roy) and Holders
To Put in ground.